

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE,
AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously presented) The direct electrical drive according to claim 4, wherein stator and the rotor are part of an electric machine, wherein the wheel set has two wheels mounted to the wheel set shaft, said wheel set shaft being completely enveloped in an area between the wheels by the electric machine.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) A direct electrical drive for a wheel set of a vehicle, comprising:
 - a stator;
 - a rotor interacting with the stator and having a rotor hub coupled mechanically with a wheel set shaft of the wheel set, said wheel set shaft defining an axis;
 - a cooling device constructed to cool the rotor and including a fan for drawing in air through an air inlet and conducting the air through a cooling channel inside the rotor; and
 - a barrier located in an area within the rotor in close proximity adjacent to the wheel set shaft to protect the wheel set shaft against ingress of foreign matter via the air inlet when the fan draws in air, said barrier including a catch device extending in a direction of the axis in parallel relationship to the wheel set shaft, and a dirt guide device connected to the rotor hub at a distance to and in alignment with the catch device.

5. (Currently amended) The direct electrical drive according to claim 4, wherein
~~the rotor has at least one rotor hub which is coupled mechanically to the wheel set shaft, with the rotor hub being connected via at least one rotor web with a support for a rotor reaction part.~~
6. (Currently amended) The direct electrical drive according to claim 4, wherein
~~the barrier includes a catch device to prevent foreign matter from impacting the wheel set shaft, said catch device having has~~ a first section forming part of the fan and disposed in close proximity of an air outlet of the cooling channel.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously presented) The direct electrical drive according to claim 4, wherein
the barrier includes a baffle wall disposed in the air inlet for deflecting foreign matter.
9. (Previously presented) The direct electrical drive according to claim 2, wherein
the wheel set shaft has a continuous jacket between the wheels of the wheel set.
10. (Previously presented) The direct electrical drive according to claim 4, wherein
the rotor has a dirt-binding surface.
11. (Previously presented) The direct electrical drive according to claim 6, wherein
the catch device has a second section in close proximity of the air inlet.
12. (Previously presented) The direct electrical drive according to claim 4, wherein
the cooling channel has an inside wall formed with a dirt-binding surface.

13. (Previously presented) The direct electrical drive according to claim 10, wherein the surface is sticky.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Previously presented) The direct electrical drive according to claim 8, wherein the baffle wall has a slanted configuration.
16. (Previously presented) The direct electrical drive according to claim 11, wherein the first and second sections of the catch device have an inwardly turned nose.
17. (New) The direct electrical drive according to claim 4, wherein the dirt guide device is part of an air guiding device of stepped configuration.